

**EXHIBIT 7**

**Brief filed by Regional Solicitor in the remanded agency proceedings, entitled "Reply Brief", joining in Leisnoi's and Koniag's Briefing**

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*rec'd MFS  
 3/29/99*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS  
 Hearings Division  
 139 East South Temple, Suite 600  
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

OMAR STRATMAN,	)	IBLA 96-152
	)	
Protestant,	)	No. A76-0132 CV (JKS)
	)	
v.	)	Challenge to the eligibility of
	)	Woody Island as a Native village
LEISNOI, INC.,	)	under Section 11(b)(3) of the
	)	Alaska Native Claims Settlement
Respondent,	)	Act, 43 U.S.C. § 1610(b)(3) (1994)
	)	
KONIAG, INC.,	)	
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS	)	
	)	
Intervenors	)	<u>REPLY BRIEF</u>
	)	

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), U.S. Department of the Interior, joins Leisnoi, Inc., Respondent, in its contention, including the underlying legal analysis, set forth in its Reply Brief that Woody Island's certification as an eligible Native village under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act [43 U.S.C. § 1601, et seq. (1988)] was legislatively confirmed or ratified by Congress's enactment of Section 1427 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of

December 2, 1980 (94 Stat. 2371, 2518). Department Counsel is familiar with Leisnoi's position on the above issue, and BIA's position on such issue is basically the same as Leisnoi's.

DATED this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1999, at Anchorage, Alaska.

  
JAMES R. MOTHERSHEAD  
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KONIAG, INC.,	)	
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS	)	
	)	
Intervenors	)	<u>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</u>
	)	

The undersigned hereby certifies that she is an employee in the Office of the Regional Solicitor, Alaska Region, and is a person of such age and discretion as to be competent to serve papers. That on March 26, 1999, she sent the original of the REPLY BRIEF to the Office of Hearings and Appeals in Salt Lake City, Utah, with a copy of the same to the following by certified mail return receipt requested:

Certified Mail

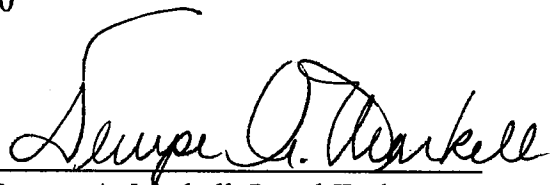
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DATED: March 26, 1999

  
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